

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : C09D 5/16		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/37723 (43) International Publication Date: 29 July 1999 (29.07.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/00263			(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date: 26 January 1999 (26.01.99)			
(30) Priority Data: 9801747.8 27 January 1998 (27.01.98) GB			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INTERNATIONAL COATINGS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Oriel House, 16 Connaught Place, P.O. Box 20980, London W2 2ZB (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FINNIE, Alistair, Andrew [GB/GB]; 11 Felton Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE25 8TQ (GB). MILLICHAMP, Ian, Stuart [GB/GB]; 10 Ladyhaugh Drive, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE16 5TE (GB). VAN GEEL, Adrianus, Antonius, Johannes [NL/NL]; Dr Mollersingel 7, NL-5262 SL Vught (NL). OVERBEEK, Gerardus, Cornelis [NL/NL]; Groningenstraat 9, NL-5144 EJ Waalwijk (NL). YEATES, Terry [GB/GB]; 41 Waterloo Road, Bramhall, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 2NS (GB).		Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(74) Agent: HALE, Stephen, Geoffrey; J.Y. & G.W. Johnson, Kingsbourne House, 229-231 High Holborn, London WC1V 7DP (GB).			
(54) Title: ANTIFOULING COATINGS			
(57) Abstract An antifouling coating composition comprises a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer. The coating composition includes an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms. The amine is preferably an amine having two aliphatic hydrocarbon groups each having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic ester or amide (A) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid. The organocyclic ester or amide (A) is preferably an isobornyl ester.			

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

- 1 -

ANTIFOULING COATINGS

Field of the invention

This invention relates to antifouling coatings. An antifouling coating is used as a top coat on ships' hulls 5 and other surfaces such as fishing nets, oil rig supports, swimming pools and power station cooling inlets to inhibit the settlement and growth of aquatic organisms such as barnacles and algae, generally by release of a biocide for the aquatic organisms.

10 Background Art

The most successful antifouling paints in recent years have been "self-polishing copolymer" paints based on a polymeric binder to which biocidal triorganotin moieties are chemically bound and from which the biocidal moieties are 15 gradually hydrolysed by seawater, as described for example in GB-A-1457590. The polymer from which the triorganotin moieties have been hydrolysed becomes soluble in seawater, so that as the outermost paint layer becomes depleted of biocide it is swept off the surface of the hull by the 20 movement of the ship through seawater. There has been a call for antifouling coatings which exhibit the "self-polishing" effect without necessarily releasing strongly biocidal triorganotin moieties. Self-polishing copolymer paints which release non-biocidal moieties are described for example in 25 EP-A-69559 and WO-A-84/02915.

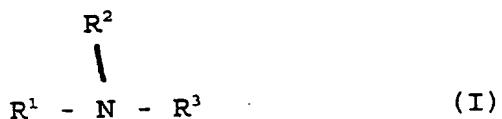
US-A-5116407 and EP-A-529693 describe an antifouling coating having marine biocidal properties and comprising as binder an acid-functional film-forming polymer whose acid groups are blocked by hydrolysable blocking groups which are 30 monoamine groups forming organic-solvent-soluble amine salts of the polymer. JP-A-1-103672 discloses a similar composition. WO-A-91/09915 describes an antifouling coating which comprises a marine biocide and a binder which is a hydrolysable seawater-erodible polymer containing sulphonic 35 acid groups in quaternary ammonium salt form. WO-A-96/03645

- 2 -

describes an antifouling coating composition comprising a water-erodible binder polymer having at least 3 limbs radiating from a central core, with protected acid functionality present in the limbs of the polymer. The protected acid functionality can be carboxylic or sulphonic acid groups blocked by a monoamine or quaternary ammonium group.

JP-A-6-72807 describes a persistent underwater antifouling agent which contains a polymer of average molecular weight from 3000 to 40000 obtained by the polymerization of (a) the reaction product of a polymerizable unsaturated monomer which has a sulphonic acid group and at least one type of higher aliphatic amine represented by the general formula (I)

15



where R^1 represents a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group with 12 to 20 carbons, R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbons, and R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbons, a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbon group with 12 to 20 carbons, or an alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbons substituted with an amino group which may be substituted with an alkyl group with 1 to 6 carbons, or, alternatively, by the polymerization of the aforesaid reaction product (a) and some other polymerizable unsaturated monomer (b) which is copolymerizable therewith.

EP-A-232006 describes a water-erodible coating comprising an erodible polymer containing a hydrolysable sulphonate ester or sulphate ester group. EP-A-429215 describes a process for preparing such a polymer.

Disclosure of invention

We have found that antifouling coating compositions based on a binder which is a salt of an amine having at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester can exhibit a "self-polishing" effect. However, the presence of sufficient of the highly hydrophilic sulphonate, sulphate, phosphonate or phosphate groups to render the copolymer "self-polishing" may lead to a weak water-swellable coating. We have found that this can be overcome by the use of hydrophobic comonomers, but that most hydrophobic comonomers such as lauryl methacrylate or butyl acrylate produce an undesirably soft copolymer of very low Tg when used in conjunction with long-chain amine salts, and that coatings based on such a soft copolymer may have lower mechanical strength when wet than is desired for use as an antifouling coating.

As disclosed in US-A-5116407 and in JP-A-1-103672, amines containing one aliphatic or cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon group having 12 to 20 carbon atoms are generally toxic to aquatic organisms. There is a demand in some countries for a "self-polishing" antifouling paint in which the binder polymer is substantially non-toxic even though it is used with known biocides for aquatic organisms such as cuprous oxide. We have found that, contrary to the teaching of JP-A-6-72807, salts of a sulphonic acid copolymer with an amine having one methyl or ethyl group and two aliphatic hydrocarbon groups each having 8 to 25 carbon atoms are generally substantially non-toxic and can be used as the binder for a "self-polishing" antifouling coating. They are, however, equally as water-sensitive as other amine salts of sulphonic acid copolymers and are even softer than other amine salts. They can therefore be used in compositions including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms as the outermost coating on a substrate which is to be underwater in use so as to inhibit the

- 4 -

settlement and growth of aquatic organisms.

According to one aspect of the present invention, an antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, is characterised in that the amine is an amine having two aliphatic hydrocarbon groups each having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic ester or amide (A) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid. By an organocyclic ester or amide we mean an ester of an alcohol, or an amide of an amine, containing at least one saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring which may be carbocyclic or heterocyclic and substituted or unsubstituted and in which the alcohol or amine group can be bonded to the ring directly or through an alkylene or oxyalkylene linkage.

The invention is described below with particular reference to sulphonic acid copolymers; in general acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid and acid phosphate ester copolymers can be used as alternatives to sulphonic acid copolymers.

We have found that the organocyclic ester or amide comonomer tends to make the copolymer both more hydrophobic and harder, compared to polymers prepared using only conventional hydrophobic acrylate ester comonomers such as butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate or lauryl methacrylate. Copolymers containing organocyclic ester or amide monomer units and units of a sulphonic acid salt of an amine having at least one long-chain hydrocarbon group have improved resistance to cold flow and improved mechanical

- 5 -

properties in service in seawater and are more resistant to damage whilst retaining their "self-polishing" properties.

The organocyclic ester or amide (A) can for example be a cycloaliphatic, aryl, aralkyl or heterocyclic ester or amide. It is preferably a cycloaliphatic ester and is most preferably a bicyclic ester such as isobornyl methacrylate or acrylate, bornyl acrylate or methacrylate or norbornyl methacrylate or acrylate or bicyclo(2,2,1)-5-heptene-2-methyl methacrylate or acrylate, dicyclopentenyl or 10 dicyclopentenyloxyethyl or dihydrocyclopentadienyl methacrylate or acrylate or a more highly cyclic, for example tricyclic, ester such as adamantyl acrylate or methacrylate. We have found that paints based on copolymers of such cycloaliphatic esters, most particularly isobornyl 15 esters, give the best mechanical properties in service in seawater. Alternatives are monocyclic esters such as cyclohexyl or cyclopentyl methacrylate or acrylate, menthyl methacrylate, 3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexyl methacrylate, t-butylcyclohexyl acrylate or methacrylate or cyclohexylmethyl 20 acrylate or methacrylate. The ester or amide (A) is preferably an ester of an alpha, beta-olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid such as acrylic, methacrylic or itaconic acid. The amide is preferably a cycloaliphatic amide, most preferably a bicyclic (eg bornyl, isobornyl or 25 norbornyl) amide or a more highly cyclic, for example tricyclic, amide as described above for the esters. An example of a preferred cycloaliphatic amide is N-isobornyl acrylamide.

Thus, according to another aspect of the invention an 30 antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester 35 and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal

- 6 -

properties for aquatic organisms, is characterised in that the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an isobornyl ester or amide of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

5 Examples of aryl esters (A) are phenyl or naphthyl acrylate or methacrylate. Examples of aralkyl esters (A) are benzyl, naphthoxyethyl, phenoxyethyl or phenylpropyl acrylate or methacrylate. Examples of heterocyclic esters (A) are furfuryl or tetrahydrofurfuryl methacrylate or 10 acrylate.

The ester or amide monomer (A), particularly a cycloaliphatic ester monomer such as isobornyl acrylate and/or isobornyl methacrylate, is present as at least 5 and preferably at least 10, most preferably at least 20, mole % 15 of the copolymer, e.g. sulphonic acid copolymer, and may be present at up to 70 or 80 mole % or even more. More than one cycloaliphatic, aryl, aralkyl and/or heterocyclic ester monomer may be present if desired. The copolymer can for example be a binary copolymer of e.g. sulphonic acid amine 20 salt and organocyclic ester monomer (A) or can additionally contain units of at least one ethylenically unsaturated comonomer. Examples of ethylenically unsaturated comonomers which can be copolymerised by addition polymerisation with e.g. sulphonic acid or salt monomers and ester monomers (A) 25 to form copolymers for use in the invention are acrylic or methacrylic esters such as methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, t-butyl acrylate, butyl methacrylate, isobutyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, lauryl methacrylate or 30 stearyl methacrylate, styrene, vinyl toluene, acrylonitrile, acrylamide or N-alkyl acrylamides such as N-t-octyl acrylamide, vinyl acetate, vinyl butyrate, vinyl esters of higher carboxylic acids such as versatic acid (a mixture of branched 10-12C carboxylic acids) and vinyl chloride.

35 To achieve the desired hardness, toughness and Tg in

- 7 -

combination with reduced water-sensitivity, a copolymer comprising a sulphonic acid amine salt as defined, at least 5, most preferably at least 10, mole % of an organocyclic ester (A) as defined and at least 5, most preferably at least 10, mole % of an acyclic alkyl ester (B) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid having 4 to 20, most preferably 4 to 8, carbon atoms in the alkyl group may be preferred. The acyclic alkyl ester can for example be butyl acrylate or isobutyl methacrylate. The total amount of 10 units (A) and (B) in the copolymer is preferably at least 40 mole %, more preferably at least 60 mole %, up to 70 or 80 mole % or even more. Most preferably the copolymer is a terpolymer consisting essentially of sulphonic acid amine salt units and units of monomers (A) and (B).

15 Thus, according to a third aspect of the invention there is provided an antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically 20 unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, characterised in that the copolymer contains at least 5 mole 25 % of an organocyclic ester (A) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid preferably of one of the types mentioned above and at least 5 mole % of an acyclic alkyl ester (B) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid having 4 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, the total amount of units 30 (A) and (B) in the copolymer being at least 40 mole %.

An alternative preferred copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic acrylate ester and at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic methacrylate ester. The organocyclic acrylate and methacrylate esters are 35 preferably cycloaliphatic esters, for example isobornyl acrylate and methacrylate. More preferably, the copolymer

- 8 -

contains at least 15 or 25 mole % each, up to a total of 70 or 80 mole %, of the units of organocyclic acrylate and methacrylate esters, for example a terpolymer of sulphonic acid amine salt units and isobornyl acrylate and 5 methacrylate units.

Thus, according to a fourth aspect of the invention there is provided an antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 10 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, 15 characterised in that the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of an organocyclic acrylate ester and at least 5 mole % of an organocyclic methacrylate ester. The organocyclic esters are preferably of the types mentioned above.

The olefinically unsaturated acid monomer for the 20 addition copolymer with which the amine forms a salt is preferably a sulphonic acid. Examples of sulphonic acid monomers which can be used in preparing the copolymer are acrylic monomers such as 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulphonic acid (AMPS), 2-sulphoethyl acrylate 25 ($\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCOOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_3\text{H}$) or 2-sulphoethyl methacrylate, styrene sulphonic acid (for example p-styrene sulphonic acid), vinyl sulphonic acid or methallyl sulphonic acid. An example of an acid sulphate ester monomer is the sulphuric acid monoester 30 of hydroxyethyl methacrylate (methacryloxyethyl monosulphate). Examples of phosphonic acid monomers are vinyl phosphonic acid, styrene phosphonic acid and 2-acrylamido-propanephosphonic acid. Phosphonic acids are generally dibasic and preferably have both acid groups in amine salt form or may have one acid group esterified. 35 Examples of acid phosphate ester monomers are methacryloxyethyl monophosphate and acryloxyethyl

- 9 -

monophosphate. The copolymer generally contains at least 5 mole %, preferably at least 10 mole %, of the monomer units having sulphonic acid etc functionality, up to 50 mole %, preferably up to 40 mole %. Most preferably, the copolymer 5 contains at least 15 mole % up to 30 to 35 mole % sulphonic acid etc monomer units.

The amine is preferably a tertiary amine, although secondary amines and in the case of some aspects primary amines can alternatively be used. We have found that a 10 binder which is a tertiary amine salt of a sulphonic acid-functional polymer gives lower and more stable paint viscosity when a solution of the binder is mixed with a biocidal pigment which is a copper or zinc compound which is sparingly soluble in seawater, compared to primary or 15 secondary amine salts. In many cases a substantially non-toxic amine, having two aliphatic hydrocarbon groups each having 8-25, for example 8-20, preferably 12-18, carbon atoms as described above, is preferred. Tertiary amines containing one methyl or ethyl group in addition to the C₈₋₂₀ 20 aliphatic groups are particularly preferred, for example methyl bis(hydrogenated tallow) amine (M2HT), methyl dioctadecyl amine, methyl dioctyl amine or methyl dicoco amine. M2HT has the chemical formula CH₃NR₂ where R represents a mixture of alkyl radicals, mainly octadecyl and 25 hexadecyl, derived from hydrogenated tallow. Similarly, methyl dicocoamine contains a mixture of alkyl radicals, mainly dodecyl and tetradecyl, derived from coconut oil.

Examples of alternative amines for use in some aspects of the invention are dimethyl dodecyl amine, dimethyl 30 hexadecyl amine, dimethyl oleyl amine, dimethyl abietyl amine, dimethyl hydrogenated tallow amine, or dimethyl coco amine. Tertiary amines containing one long-chain aliphatic radical having 8 or more, preferably 8-25, carbon atoms together with two lower alkyl groups e.g. of up to 4 carbon 35 atoms such as methyl, for example dimethyl dodecyl amine, dimethyl oleyl amine, dimethyl abietyl amine or dimethyl

- 10 -

coco amine, generally have biocidal properties against certain aquatic organisms such as algae and barnacles and may be preferred for use as the only ingredient having aquatic biocidal properties or to augment other biocides 5 present in the antifouling coating. Examples of primary amines are dodecylamine, hexadecylamine, octadecylamine, oleylamine, dehydroabietylamine (Rosin Amine D) and hydrogenated tallow amine. Examples of secondary amines are N-methyl dodecylamine and N-methyl coco amine.

10 The copolymers of the invention can be prepared by various methods, which will be discussed below in relation to sulphonic acids although similar methods may be applicable to the acid sulphate esters, phosphonic acids and acid phosphate esters. In one process a polymerisable 15 olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid is reacted with an amine and the resulting amine salt of the unsaturated sulphonic acid is copolymerised with the monomer (A) and optionally with one or more olefinically unsaturated comonomers to form a copolymer which is an amine salt of a 20 sulphonic acid-functional polymer. Alternatively, a sulphonic acid-functional copolymer containing units (A) is reacted with an amine to form an amine salt of the sulphonic acid-functional polymer.

When the polymerisable olefinically unsaturated 25 sulphonic acid is reacted with an amine to form a salt before polymerisation, this reaction is preferably carried out in an organic solvent, for example an alcohol such as n-butanol, an ether alcohol such as butoxyethanol or methoxypropanol, an ester such as butyl acetate or isoamyl 30 acetate, an ether-ester such as ethoxyethyl acetate or methoxypropyl acetate, a ketone such as methyl isobutyl ketone or methyl isoamyl ketone, or an aromatic hydrocarbon such as xylene, toluene or trimethylbenzene, or a mixture of two or more of these solvents. The solvent can be water- 35 miscible or water-immiscible. Some sulphonic acid monomers, such as AMPS, are insoluble in most common organic solvents,

- 11 -

but their salts with amines having at least one C₈₋₂₅ hydrocarbon group are generally soluble in the solvents listed above. The amine and sulphonic acid can thus be mixed in the organic solvent to produce a solution of the amine 5 salt of the sulphonic acid; for an insoluble sulphonic acid, visual disappearance of the sulphonic acid indicates completion of the salt-forming reaction. Many long-chain amines are solid, such as M2HT, which melts at about 35°C. A solid amine is preferably either melted before mixing with 10 the sulphonic acid or heated to melt it as it is being mixed with the sulphonic acid. The salt-forming reaction is generally exothermic. The amine sulphonic acid salt can be isolated if desired, for example by evaporation of solvent or in some cases by slow crystallisation of the salt at 15 ambient temperature or below, but it is preferably used in solution.

The amine salt of the olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid can be polymerised by addition polymerisation with the required comonomer(s). Polymerisation is preferably 20 carried out in an organic solvent, for example a solvent as listed above or a blend of two or more of those solvents, using a free radical initiator such as an azo compound, for example azobisisobutyronitrile or azobis (methylbutyronitrile), or a peroxide such as benzoyl peroxide. Most 25 preferably, the polymerisation is carried out in a solvent comprising at least partly the solvent in which the amine salt is prepared, so that the solution of amine salt as prepared can be added directly to the polymerisation reaction. The temperature of polymerisation is generally in 30 the range 50-150°C, preferably 60-120°C. Polymerisation can be carried out with all the monomers present at the start of the reaction, or one or more of the monomers can be added as polymerisation progresses. A chain-transfer agent, for example a mercaptan such as dodecane-1-thiol, can be used if 35 required to control the molecular weight of the copolymer formed.

- 12 -

The weight-average molecular weight of the copolymer (M_w) as determined by gel permeation chromatography is generally at least 1,000, preferably at least 2,000, to give the required film strength in the coating after application, 5 while being generally below 150,000, preferably below 100,000 and most preferably no more than 60,000, to achieve a paint viscosity low enough for spraying at a high-solids level.

Alternatively, the olefinically unsaturated sulphonic 10 acid can be polymerised, using similar polymerisation conditions to those set forth above, and preferably using a solvent in which the sulphonic acid and the comonomer(s) are soluble, and the sulphonic acid polymer formed can be reacted with the amine. For some sulphonic acid monomers, 15 particularly AMPS, it may be difficult to find a suitable polymerisation solvent and in such a case polymerisation of the amine salt is preferred.

If a water-based paint is required, the amine salt of the sulphonate-functional polymer can be prepared in organic 20 solvent solution and dispersed in water, usually with the aid of a surfactant. The organic solvent can be partly or substantially completely removed from the resulting dispersion. For example, the sulphonate salt binder polymer can be prepared in a solvent which is more volatile than 25 water or forms an azeotrope with water and the solvent can be removed by distillation.

In an alternative way of preparing a water-based dispersion of an amine salt of a sulphonate-functional binder polymer, the polymer can be prepared by emulsion or 30 suspension polymerisation. An amine salt of an ethylenically unsaturated sulphonic acid can for example be copolymerised with at least one ethylenically unsaturated comonomer as an oil-in-water emulsion using an anionic, cationic, nonionic or amphoteric surfactant in the presence of a free radical 35 initiator.

- 13 -

The solution, dispersion or emulsion of the binder polymer can be used as a clear antifouling varnish if the amine used has adequate biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, but it is more usually blended with a biocide (an ingredient having biocidal properties) for aquatic organisms and usually with a pigment using conventional paint-blending techniques. The biocide may itself be all or part of the pigment of the paint. If it is pigmented, the coating composition preferably has a pigment volume concentration of, for example, 15 to 55%. The pigment preferably comprises at least one sparingly soluble metalliferous pigment having a solubility in seawater of from 0.5 to 100, preferably 1 to 10, parts per million by weight. Examples of such pigments which are also aquatic biocides include copper or zinc compounds, such as cuprous oxide, cuprous thiocyanate, cuprous sulphate, zinc ethylene bis(dithiocarbamate), zinc dimethyl dithiocarbamate, zinc pyrithione, copper pyrithione, zinc diethyl dithiocarbamate, copper resinate or cuprous ethylene bis-(dithiocarbamate) and certain other sparingly seawater-soluble metalliferous pigments, for example manganese ethylene bis(dithiocarbamate). Other sparingly soluble pigments having a solubility in seawater of 0.5 to 100, preferably 0.5 or 1 to 10, parts per million include barium sulphate, calcium sulphate, dolomite and zinc oxide. Copper metal can be present as an aquatic biocide, for example in flake or powder form.

The sparingly soluble metalliferous pigments produce water-soluble metal compounds on reaction with seawater, so that the pigment particles do not survive at the paint surface. This promotes the "self-polishing" action of the paint in which the amine group is gradually released from the surface of the paint film through interaction with seawater species to give a polymer containing free sulphonic groups, which gradually dissolves in seawater. Mixtures of sparingly soluble pigments can be used, for example cuprous oxide, cuprous thiocyanate or zinc ethylene bis(dithiocarbamate), which are highly effective biocidal

- 14 -

pigments, can be mixed with zinc oxide, which is not effective as a biocide but dissolves slightly more rapidly in seawater.

The antifouling coating composition can contain a non-metalliferous biocide for marine organisms, for example tetramethyl thiuram disulphide, methylene bis(thiocyanate), captan, pyridinium triphenylboron, a substituted iso-thiazolone such as 4,5-dichloro-2-N-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one, 2-methylthio-4-t-butylamino-6-cyclopropylamino-s-triazine, 10 N-3,4-dichlorophenyl-N',N'-dimethyl-urea ("Diuron"), 2-(thiocyanomethylthio) benzothiazole, 2,4,5,6-tetrachloro-isophthalonitrile, dichlorofluanid, tolylfluanid or 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-4-(methylsulphonyl)pyridine. Such a non-metalliferous biocide can be used in addition to a sparingly 15 soluble copper or zinc compound, or one or more non-metalliferous biocides can be used as the only biocide of the coating in a copper-free, or even metal-free or pigment-free, antifouling coating. Many of these non-metalliferous biocides are solid and all are sparingly soluble in seawater 20 and may help the "self-polishing" action of the paint. The ingredient having biocidal properties can be present at 0.01 to 90% by weight of the composition, depending on its biocidal effectiveness.

The coating composition can additionally contain a 25 pigment which is not reactive with seawater and may be highly insoluble in seawater (solubility below 0.5 part per million by weight) such as titanium dioxide or ferric oxide or an organic pigment such as phthalocyanine or azo pigment. Such highly insoluble pigments are preferably used at less 30 than 60% by weight of the total pigment component of the paint, most preferably less than 40%.

The coating composition can additionally contain one or more plasticisers, for example a chlorinated paraffin, a phthalate diester or a phosphate triester, and/or one or 35 more auxiliary film-forming agents, for example a vinyl

- 15 -

polymer, such as a copolymer of vinyl chloride with a vinyl ether, a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate, vinyl alcohol and/or an acrylic monomer or a hydrocarbon resin. Plasticisers and/or auxiliary film-forming agents, if 5 present, are generally used at up to 30% by volume based on the dry paint film, preferably 5-20% by volume. The coating composition can additionally contain conventional thickeners, particularly thixotropes such as silica or bentonite and/or stabilisers such as zeolites.

10 The invention is illustrated by the following Examples:-

Example 1

a. Binder Polymer Preparation

15 Acrylamido 2-methylpropanesulphonic acid (AMPS, 62.9g) was neutralised with methyl bis(hydrogenated tallow) amine (M2HT, 159.1g) in xylene (90g) and butanol (30g) to give a solution of the M2HT salt of AMPS. Isobornyl acrylate (173.9g), butyl acrylate (48.6g) and azobismethylbutyronitrile (2.9g) were added and the combined 20 solution was polymerised by slow addition to a stirred reaction vessel containing xylene (123.8g) and butanol (41.2g) at 90°C. 30 minutes after completion of the monomer addition, a suspension of azobisisobutyronitrile (AZDN, 1.2g) in xylene (5.6g) and butanol (1.9g) was added to the 25 reaction vessel, and, after a further 45 minutes, a second suspension of AZDN (1.2g) in xylene (5.6g) and butanol (1.9g) was added to the reaction vessel, the vessel being maintained at 90°C throughout and thereafter for a further 60 minutes.

30 The product was a 60% by weight solution in xylene and butanol (3:1 by weight) of a copolymer of the M2HT salt of AMPS (20 mole%), isobornyl acrylate (55 mole%) and butyl acrylate (25 mole%). The copolymer had a weight-average

- 16 -

molecular weight of about 6,500.

b. Paint Preparation

27.8% (all percentages by weight) of the above copolymer solution was mixed with 15.9% solvent (xylene, 5 butanol and methyl isoamyl ketone), 0.1% hydroquinone stabiliser, 2.0% thickeners (bentonite clay and silica aerogel), 6.4% plasticisers ("Lutonal" vinyl chloride copolymer and chlorinated paraffin) and 47.8% pigments (cuprous oxide, zinc ethylene bis(dithiocarbamate), zinc 10 oxide, titanium dioxide and C.I. pigment red) in a high-speed disperser to form a self-polishing antifouling paint.

As a test of antifouling performance, the paint was applied to a ply-wood board which had been pre-painted with a commercial anti-corrosive primer (JVA202/203, 15 International Paints) and the board was immersed in the sea at Newton Ferrers, Devon, England, a site particularly subject to algal fouling. Some paints were also tested similarly in the sea at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, England, a site particularly subject to barnacle fouling. The paint 20 film was periodically assessed for settlement of marine fouling organisms and results are shown in Table 2 below.

As a test of self-polishing performance, the paint was also tested on a rotating disc apparatus of the type described in GB-A-1457590 and the film thickness measured 25 before and after rotation in sea water. The mechanical properties of the paint film were also assessed during this period. Results are shown in Table 2 below.

Examples 2-17 and Comparative Examples C1 and C4

Following the procedures of Example 1a, copolymers of 30 the compositions in mole% shown in Table 1 below were prepared in solution at the % by weight and in the solvent indicated.

- 17 -

Self-polishing antifouling paints were prepared following the procedure and composition of Example 1b but using the copolymer solutions prepared in Examples 2-17 or C1 or C4 in place of the copolymer solution of Example 1. 5 The paints were assessed for antifouling and self-polishing performance and for mechanical properties as described in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 2 below.

Comparative Example C2

A commercial organotin-based SPC paint (BFA976, 10 International Paint) was tested for antifouling, self-polishing and mechanical performance as described above. Results are shown in Table 2 below.

Comparative Example C3

A commercial anti-corrosive primer (JVA202/203, 15 International Paints) was tested for antifouling, self-polishing and mechanical performance as described above. Results are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 1 - Binder Polymer Preparation

Example	AMPS- IBOA	IBOMA	BA	iBA	CHMA	TMCH	BzMA	%by wt	X:B
1a	25	55	20					60	3:1
2a	20	55	25					60	3:1
3a	29.8	34	36.2					60	3:1
4a	24.6	41.7	33.7					60	3:1
5a	23.4		76.6					55	1:0
6a	32		68					55	1:0
7a	38.3	61.7						55	1:0
8a	22				78			55	1:0
9a	26					74		55	1:0
10a	20.5		43.1			36.4		55	1:0
11a	22.2		46.4				31.4	55	1:0
12a	20	55			25			60	3:1
13a	27.5	25	47.5					60	3:1
14a	30.5	23.5	46					60	3:1
15a	25	34.7	40.3					60	3:1
16a	35.2		64.8					55	1:0
17a	20			80			80	60	3:1
C1a	20				80			55	1:0
C4a	20							60	3:1

Table 1 - key

AMPS-M2HT	methyl bis(hydrogenated tallow) amine salt of acrylamido 2-methylpropanesulphonic acid
IBOA	isobornyl acrylate
IBOMA	isobornyl methacrylate
BA	isobutyl methacrylate
iBA	isobutyl acrylate
CHMA	cyclohexyl methacrylate
TMCHMA	trimethylcyclohexyl methacrylate
BzMA	benzyl methacrylate
X:B	xyleno:butanol

Table 2 - Paint Performance

Example	A/F Performance				SPC	MC
	Newton Ferrars		Burnham			
	Rating	Months	Rating	Months		
1b	84	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
2b	84	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
3b	72	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
4b	72	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
5b	76	7	N/T	N/T	1	1
6b	64	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
7b	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1
8b	80	7	64	6	1	1
9b	72	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
10b	80	7	64	6	1	1
11b	72	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
12b	56	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
13b	44	7	72	5	1	1
14b	44	7	88	5	1	1
15b	0	7	56	5	1	1
16b	64	6	N/T	N/T	1	1
17b	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1
C1	72	7	88	6	1	0.5
C2	88	7	64	6	1	1
C3	0	6	N/T	N/T	0	1
C4	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	0.1

Key

A/F Performance

0 = completely fouled after X months'

0 = no fouling after X months'

immersion

immersion

not tested

not tested

in film thickness on

SPC (Self-

polishing)

MC (Mechanical

Performance)

0 = no reduction

in film thickness on

rotor testing

consistent reduction in film

thickness on rotor testing

0 = severe tearing or detachment of the

paint film

1 = no tearing or detachment of the

paint film

- 20 -

Claims

1. An antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and 5 an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, 10 characterised in that the amine is an amine having two aliphatic hydrocarbon groups each having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic ester or amide (A) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

15 2. An antifouling coating composition according to claim 1, characterised in that the amine is a tertiary amine containing one methyl or ethyl group in addition to two aliphatic hydrocarbon groups each having 8 to 20 carbon atoms.

20 3. An antifouling coating composition according to claim 2, characterised in that the amine is methyl bis(hydrogenated tallow) amine.

4. An antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one 25 aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient 30 having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, characterised in that the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic ester (A) of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid and at least 5 mole % of units of an acyclic alkyl ester (B) of an olefinically unsaturated

- 21 -

carboxylic acid having 4 to 20 carbon atoms in the alkyl group, the total amount of units (A) and (B) in the copolymer being at least 40 mole %.

5. An antifouling coating composition according to any 5 of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the ester (A) is a cycloaliphatic ester.

6. An antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and 10 an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, 15 characterised in that the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic acrylate ester and at least 5 mole % of units of an organocyclic methacrylate ester.

7. An antifouling coating composition according to claim 6, characterised in that the organocyclic acrylate and 20 methacrylate esters are cycloaliphatic esters.

8. An antifouling coating composition according to claim 5, characterised in that the cycloaliphatic ester is isobornyl acrylate or methacrylate.

9. An antifouling coating composition according to 25 claim 7, characterised in that the cycloaliphatic esters are isobornyl acrylate and isobornyl methacrylate.

10. An antifouling coating composition comprising a binder which is a salt of an amine containing at least one aliphatic hydrocarbon group having 8 to 25 carbon atoms and 30 an addition copolymer of an olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester and at least one olefinically unsaturated

- 22 -

comonomer, the coating composition including an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms, characterised in that the copolymer contains at least 5 mole % of units of an isobornyl ester or amide of an olefinically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

11. An antifouling composition according to any of claims 8 to 10, characterised in that the copolymer contains 20 to 80 mole % isobornyl acrylate and/or methacrylate units.

10 12. An antifouling coating composition according to any of claims 4 to 11, characterised in that the amine is a tertiary amine containing one aliphatic radical having 8 to 25 carbon atoms together with two lower alkyl groups.

15 13. An antifouling coating composition according to any of claims 1 to 12, characterised in that the copolymer contains 15 to 40 mole % olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid units.

14. An antifouling composition according to claim 13, characterised in that the olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid is 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropanesulphonic acid.

15. An antifouling coating composition according to any of claims 1 to 14, characterised in that the composition contains at least one plasticiser or auxiliary film-forming agent present at 5 to 30% by volume of the dry paint.

25 16. A process for the preparation of an antifouling coating composition according to any of claims 1 to 14, characterised in that the said amine and the olefinically unsaturated sulphonic acid, acid sulphate ester, phosphonic acid or acid phosphate ester are reacted to produce an amine 30 salt in an organic solvent which is a solvent for the amine salt produced, the resulting amine salt solution is polymerised with at least one olefinically unsaturated

- 23 -

comonomer including an organocyclic ester or amide present at at least 5 mole % of total monomers in the presence of a free radical initiator to produce a binder solution, and the binder solution is mixed with an ingredient having biocidal properties for aquatic organisms.

17. Use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 15 as the outermost coating of a substrate which is to be underwater in use, to inhibit the settlement and growth of aquatic organisms.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No
PCT/GB 99/00263

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 C09D5/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 C09D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 322 (C-1214), 20 June 1994 & JP 06 072807 A (KATAYAMA CHEM WORKS CO LTD), 15 March 1994 cited in the application see abstract</p> <p>---</p> <p>EP 0 364 271 A (COURTAULDS COATINGS) 18 April 1990 see column 5, line 53 – column 6, line 38 & US 5 116 407 A cited in the application</p> <p>---</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	1
A		1, 4, 6

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 May 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/05/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Girard, Y

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/00263

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 8439 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A82, AN 84-240058 XP002102137 & JP 59 142263 A (CHUGOKU TORYO) , 15 August 1984 see abstract -----	1,4,6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/00263

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 364271	A 18-04-1990	AU 646754	B	03-03-1994
		AU 2092492	A	15-10-1992
		AU 624637	B	18-06-1992
		AU 4276089	A	26-04-1990
		AU 630114	B	22-10-1992
		AU 4276289	A	26-04-1990
		CA 2000495	A	13-04-1990
		CA 2000499	A	13-04-1990
		CN 1041771	A	02-05-1990
		CN 1041772	A	02-05-1990
		DE 68920688	D	02-03-1995
		DE 68920688	T	13-07-1995
		DE 68925290	D	08-02-1996
		DE 68925290	T	27-06-1996
		DK 87595	A	03-08-1995
		DK 506989	A	14-04-1990
		DK 507089	A	14-04-1990
		EP 0364272	A	18-04-1990
		EP 0529693	A	03-03-1993
		ES 2067553	T	01-04-1995
		ES 2081545	T	01-03-1996
		FI 953471	A	18-07-1995
		GR 3015105	T	31-05-1995
		GR 3018945	T	31-05-1996
		HK 1000670	A	17-04-1998
		JP 2151672	A	11-06-1990
		JP 2196869	A	03-08-1990
		KR 136283	B	24-04-1998
		MX 172244	B	09-12-1993
		MX 170259	B	12-08-1993
		NO 179413	B	24-06-1996
		NO 943208	A	17-04-1990
		PT 91982	A,B	30-04-1990
		PT 91983	A,B	30-04-1990
		US 5116407	A	26-05-1992
		US 5236493	A	17-08-1993
		CN 1088238	A,B	22-06-1994